

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SALT, FI, UR

SUBJECT:POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FINLAND-SALT

REF: HELSINKI 818

1. FOLLOWING MAY BE USED IN BRIEFING MFA ON SALT AND MOSCOW
DISCUSSIONS.

2. DURING COURSE OF VANCE VISIT TO MOSCOW, US ADVANCED TWO
SALT APPROACHES. ONE APPROACH--THE SO-CALLED COMPREHENSIVE
PACKAGE--INCLUDED

--REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC AGGREGATES TO A LEVEL OF 1800 TO
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2000;

--REDUCTION OF MODERN LARGE BALLISTIC MISSILES ("HEAVY
MISSILES") TO 150;

--REDUCTION OF MIRVED MISSILE LAUNCHERS TO A LEVEL OF 1100
TO 1200;

--A LIMIT OF 550 ON LAUNCHERS FOR MIRVED ICBM'S (LAND-BASED INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES);

--A FREEZE ON DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GENERATIONS OF ICBMS AND A BAN ON MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ICBMS;

--A LIMITATION OF SIX FLIGHT TESTS FOR ICBMS AND SIX FLIGHT TESTS FOR SLBMS PER YEAR;

--A BAN ON THE DEPLOYMENT, TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAUNCHERS OF MOBILE ICBMS;

--LIMITATION OF CRUISE MISSILES TO LESS THAN INTERCONTINENTAL RANGE.

3. THE US ALSO PROPOSED TO

--RESTRICT DEPLOYMENT OF AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES WITH OVER 600 KILOMETER RANGE ONLY TO HEAVY BOMBERS;

--NOT INCLUDE THE SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER IN THE AGGREGATE IF THE PARTIES COULD REACH AGREEMENT TO GIVE THE US ASSURANCE IT WOULD NOT BE USED IN AN INTERCONTINENTAL ROLE;

--RESOLVE OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS MIRV VERIFICATION, DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES, AND THE US DATA BASE PROPOSAL.

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4. THE SECOND APPROACH--SO-CALLED "DEFERRAL"--INCLUDED:

--VLADIVOSTOK LEVELS FOR THE AGGREGATE AND MIRVED LAUNCHERS TOTAL (2400/1320);

--DEFERRAL OF THE BACKFIRE AND CRUISE MISSILE ISSUES UNTIL SALT III.

5. THE SOVIETS DID NOT DISCUSS THE INDIVIDUAL FEATURES AND BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE TWO SALT APPROACHES IN MOSCOW. IN THE WAKE OF THE MOSCOW MEETING, A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE SIDES HAS BEGUN AND WILL CONTINUE DURING THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA AND SALT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS BEGINNING AT GENEVA ON MAY 11. IT IS STILL PREMATURE TO SPECULATE WHEN AN AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS WILL EMERGE.

6. DURING THE MOSCOW MEETINGS, IT WAS AGREED TO SET UP EIGHT WORKING GROUPS TO CARRY ON DISCUSSIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, INDIAN OCEAN MILITARY LIMITATIONS, CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER LIMITATIONS, RADIOLOGICAL

WEAPONS, CIVIL DEFENSE LIMITATIONS, ANTI-SATELLITE LIMITATIONS, PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MISSILE LAUNCHES, AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS LIMITATIONS. IN ADDITION, IT WAS AGREED TO CARRY ON REGULAR CONSULTATIONS ON NON-PROLIFERATION. THE MODALITIES AND SCHEDULING OF THE VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS ARE CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

7. WITH REGARD TO THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE DISCUSSIONS, THEY WERE FRANK AND BUSINESS-LIKE. THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED THEIR POINT OF VIEW ON AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS, BUT THEY DID NOT LINK THIS QUESTION TO OTHER
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MATTERS BEING DISCUSSED. THE UNITED STATES POINTED UP ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH SOVIETS ON AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST AND POINTED UP THE NEED TO OBSERVE RESTRAINT IN TROUBLED ZONES. THIS POINT WAS MADE PARTICULARLY WITH AFRICA IN MIND.

CHRISTOPHER

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